

DRAFT
Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 17, 2006

Present: Janice O'Brien, Kenn Jones, Tina Sturdivant, John Whiteside Jack Karcz, Matthew Thomas, Peter Bolduc, Jean Ragonese

The meeting began at 7: 05 PM

Mr. Jones made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from October 6, 2006; seconded by Mrs. Sturdivant.

Members present began a discussion of the Land Conservation Work Plan (revision 9/25/06), specifically the Communication with Landowners task sheet. The question was raised as to re-evaluate the time line for some of the actions/tasks. No decisions were made to change the plan and it remains the same at this time.

Mrs. O'Brien presented a sample flier for a landowner conservation workshop that Frank Mitchell (NROC) sent her. The members felt that the flier contained too much text information, but could be useful in drafting our own flier in the near future.

All members offered suggestions and strategies for two landowner workshop to take place in January (or possibly early February). The first workshop is for all landowners to attend to hear about the benefits of land conservation. Members agreed that the best place to hold this meeting would be at the library. Mrs. O'Brien stated that she would contact the library to about availability. The second workshop is to be a smaller, more informal gathering of selected longtime Fremont landowners at Mr. Whiteside's home.

Mrs. O'Brien stated that she had spoken with Frank Mitchell concerning his availability to attend the workshops. The dates given are for weekday evenings. There was a discussion about asking Phil Auger from Rockingham Land Trust to attend the landowner workshop, in addition to Frank Mitchell. Mrs. Ragonese and Mr. Thomas felt that it may be better to hold the workshop on a weekend in the afternoon, instead of a weeknight, to be more convenient for the invitees. Mrs. O'Brien stated that she would contact both Frank Mitchell and Phil Auger to see what their availability is for weekends in January. The members were all in agreement that Mrs. O'Brien could schedule a date to hold the first workshop on a weekend day without speaking with the committee. Mr. Whiteside will schedule the second meeting at his convenience.

Mr. Jones and Mrs. O'Brien stated that they would work on a generalized draft letter to landowners, and to condense the list of landowners for all members to view. The goal for the next meeting is to review the landowner list and further personalize letters as deemed appropriate.

There was a discussion concerning the format of the first landowner workshop. Members agreed that there is a need for some structure to the meeting. Mr. Whiteside suggested targeting the successes of the Glen Oaks Conservation Project to aid in promoting motivation for conserving land. It was suggested to contact the Lawrence family to see if a representative could attend the workshop so the audience could hear personal accounts of what motivated the family to conserve land, the process, benefits and personal satisfaction to the audience.

Landowner workshop information may be available at the November 7, 2006 election providing the date is confirmed. It was suggested that copies of our landowner workshop flier and/or a copy of the book "Conserving Your Land, Options for New Hampshire Landowners" could be made available to any interested parties.

Mrs. O'Brien informed the members that she is drafting a letter for bids to all consultants referred by Frank Mitchell to create a conservation plan for the town.

The Conservation Commission will begin construction of the Loop Trail in the Town Forest on Saturday October 21, 2006 at 8AM. Volunteers wishing to work with the Fremont Boy Scout troop would be appreciated.

Members present agreed to the following meeting schedule for the months of November and December.

MONDAY November 13, 2006, 7PM.
Tuesday December 5, 2006, 7PM.

****Please note the day change for November and there will not be a second meeting in November or December.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Kenn Jones; seconded by Matthew Thomas. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Sturdivant